

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 SAM-01 IO-10 /081 W

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R 151222Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7578

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 06719

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS 1

TAGS: PFOR UR XC VS VN CB LA FR

SUBJECT: PERIODIC FRANCO/SOVIET CONSULTATIONS ON  
INDOCHINA.

REF: MOSCOW 3303

1. QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR ASIA BOLLE TOLD EMBOFF  
MARCH 14 THAT "PERIODIC" FRANCO/SOVIET CONSULTATIONS  
CONCERNING INDOCHINA HAD TAKEN PLACE MARCH 13. SOVIET  
REPRESENTATIVES WERE SERGEY NEMCHINA, CHIEF SOUTHEAST  
ASIAN DEPARTMENT AND HIS DEPUTY YURIY KUZNETSOV. QUAI  
DIRECTOR FOR ASIA FROMENT-MEURICE AND HIS DEPUTY FOR  
INDOCHINA BOLLE REPRESENTED FRENCH. EXCHANGES WERE  
WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE OCTOBER 1971 PROTOCOL, AND  
IT WAS PARIS' TURN TO HOST THE MEETING. THE SCHEDULING  
WAS IN RESPONSE TO SOVIET REQUEST.

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2. BOLLE SAID THAT THE SOVIETS BASICALLY REPLAYED

THEIR OFFICIAL AND PRESS STATEMENTS. THEY GAVE AWAY NOTHING CONCERNING THEIR INFORMATION ON DRV/MILITARY INTENTIONS--IF INDEED THEY WERE AWARE OF THEM. THE SOVIETS WERE VERY MODERATE IN THEIR CHARACTERIZATION OF THE US ROLE IN INDOCHINA.

3. CAMBODIA. THE SOVIETS WERE MOST CONCERNED ABOUT THE SITUATION IN CAMBODIA AND WISHED FRENCH VIEWS IN DETAIL. THE SOVIETS GAVE NO INFORMATION ON THE KHMER COMMUNISTS (KC) AS THOUGH EVEN THE DRV HAD NOT FILLED THEM IN ON THE PARTY. IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE SOVIET CONCLUSION WAS THAT THEY HAD LITTLE INFLUENCE ON THE KC AND ON THE COURSE OF EVENTS IN CAMBODIA--EVEN THROUGH THE DRV. THE SOVIETS RECOGNIZED THAT THE INFLUENCE ON BOTH SIHANOUK AND THE KC WAS PRIMARILY CHINESE.

4. NORTH VIETNAM. SOVIETS SAID VERY LITTLE ABOUT NORTH VIETNAM DESPITE FIRYUBIN VISIT. KUZNETSOV DID SAY THAT THE DRV SHOWED A GREAT INTEREST IN CONSTRUCTION --FRENCH CONCLUDED THAT THIS INTEREST WAS SOMEWHAT AT THE EXPENSE OF THE MILITARY EFFORT IN THE SOUTH. KUZNETSOV SAID SOVIETS HAD FOUND THE DRV RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM MUCH TOO AMBITIOUS AND UNREALISTIC, FOR EXAMPLE A POWER PLANT OF EXTRAORDINARY CAPACITY. FRENCH THOUGHT VISIT HAD PERHAPS BEEN PRIMARILY DEVOTED TO AID TALKS, BUT CAMBODIA WAS APPARENTLY ALSO DISCUSSED.

5. SOUTH VIETNAM. IN RARE CRITICAL REFERENCE TO US, SOVIETS GAVE THE USUAL LINE THAT THE PROBLEMS IN SOUTH VIETNAM WERE CAUSED BY THE VIOLATIONS BY GVN SUPPORTED BY THE US. SOVIETS SAID THAT THE ONLY SOLUTION WAS STRICT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT. WHILE CALLING FOR THE RESUMPTION OF THE CELLE ST. CLOUD TALKS, THE SOVIETS SAID THEY UNDERSTOOD WHY THE PRG DID NOT WISH THEM TO RESUME "UNDER THE CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES."

6. LAOS. SOVIETS SHARED FRENCH VIEW THAT THE SITUATION IN LAOS WAS EVOLVING SATISFACTORILY. ALTHOUGH LAO CONFIDENTIAL

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SOLUTION COULD NOT SERVE AS MODEL FOR EVOLUTION ELSEWHERE, THE GENERAL EXPERIENCE IN LAOS SHOULD SERVE AS ENCOURAGEMENT FOR SHIFT FROM MILITARY STRUGGLE TO POLITICAL COMPETITION IN OTHER PARTS OF INDOCHINA. SOVIETS SINGLED OUT CHINESE ACTIVITIES IN LAOS, PARTICULARLY ROADBUILDING, AS ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL CAUSES FOR CONCERN. SOVIETS SAID LAO SHOULD BE MORE SUSPICIOUS OF CHINESE INTENTIONS.

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